**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing handwriting recognition for handwritten characters of a language having character stroke order rules, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

storing a plurality of respective reference parameter [[set]] sets ~~of a plurality of reference character strokes of a reference character~~ in a reference character dictionary, wherein each of the plurality of respective reference parameter sets corresponds to a reference character stroke of a reference character, wherein each of the plurality of respective reference parameter sets ~~of each of the plurality of reference character strokes have~~ has an associated reference sequence number;

receiving a stroke parameter set derived from user input of a handwritten stroke, wherein the handwritten stroke is one of a plurality of strokes required for writing a character;

identifying a stroke sequence number of the stroke parameter set; and

responsive to ~~identification of~~ identifying the stroke sequence number, comparing the stroke parameter set with [[a]] at least those of the plurality of respective reference parameter ~~set having an~~ sets having their associated reference sequence number equal to the stroke sequence number, wherein the ~~comparison~~ comparing excludes at least one of the plurality of respective reference parameter sets.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of storing includes:

maintaining each of the plurality of respective reference parameter [[set]] sets in a plurality of respective fields of a table, wherein ~~each of~~ the stroke ~~order~~ sequence ~~numbers~~ number is derived from [[a]] one of the plurality of respective ~~field~~ fields.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of identifying includes:

incrementing a counter value on receipt of [[a]] the stroke parameter set, the counter value corresponding to the stroke sequence number.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of comparing further includes:

excluding each of the plurality of respective reference parameter ~~set having an~~ sets, wherein the associated reference sequence number for each of the plurality of respective reference parameter sets excluded is not equal to the stroke sequence number.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further including:

receiving an indication that a user has knowledge of the character stroke order rules.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of comparing further includes:

comparing[[,]] with the stroke parameter set[[, a]] at least one of the plurality of respective reference parameter ~~set with an~~ sets, wherein the associated reference sequence number is within one increment of the stroke sequence number.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of storing includes:

storing the respective reference parameter sets of a plurality of characters in the reference character dictionary.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein each of the respective reference parameter sets of the plurality of characters ~~are~~ is stored in one of a plurality of respective records of the reference character dictionary, and wherein each ~~record~~ of the plurality of respective records ~~including~~ includes a data element ~~having a~~ value equal to a number of constituent strokes of the ~~respective~~ reference character.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:

excluding[[,]] from the ~~comparison~~ the comparing step, at least one of the plurality of respective ~~the~~ reference parameter sets of ~~a record~~ at least one of the plurality of respective records, wherein ~~having~~ the data element value of the plurality of respective reference parameter sets excluded is less than the stroke sequence number.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a ~~computer readable~~ recordable-type medium for performing handwriting recognition of a language having character stroke order rules comprising:

a reference character dictionary including a first record defining a reference character, the first record including a plurality of reference parameter sets[[,]] each of the plurality of reference parameter

sets respectively defining stroke attributes of a stroke of the reference character, each of the plurality of reference parameter sets being associated with a reference sequence number; ~~and~~

first instructions for receiving a stroke parameter set derived from a first handwritten character stroke and for identifying a stroke sequence number in which the first handwritten character stroke was input by a user[[,]];

second instructions, responsive to identifying the stroke sequence number, for comparing the stroke parameter set with [[a]] at least one of the plurality of reference parameter ~~set~~ sets ~~having a~~ wherein the reference sequence number of the plurality of reference parameter sets compared is equal to the stroke sequence number[[,]]; and

third instructions for excluding [[a]] at least one of the plurality of reference parameter [[set]] sets from the ~~comparison~~ comparing step ~~that has a~~ wherein the reference sequence number of the plurality of reference parameter sets excluded is not equal to the stroke sequence number.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of reference parameter sets [[are]] is stored in one of a plurality of respective fields of the reference character dictionary, the reference sequence number determined by one of the plurality of respective [[field]] fields.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 10, wherein the first instruction identify [[a]] at least one of the plurality of reference parameter ~~set having an~~ sets, wherein the associated reference sequence number of the at least one reference parameter identified set has a value within one increment of the stroke sequence number, and wherein the second instructions compare the stroke parameter set with the at least one reference parameter set identified ~~having the reference sequence number value within one of the stroke sequence number~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 10, wherein the first record includes a data element ~~having a~~ value specifying a number of constituent strokes of the reference character.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 10, wherein the reference character dictionary includes a second record having at least one second reference parameter set defining attributes of a second handwritten character stroke of a second reference character and a data element value specifying a number of constituent strokes of the second reference character, wherein the third instructions, responsive to a determination that the number of constituent strokes of the second

reference character is less than the stroke sequence number, exclude the second reference parameter set of the second record from ~~a comparison with the stroke parameter set~~ the comparing step.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 10, wherein the ~~set of~~ first instructions, responsive to receiving the stroke parameter set, increments a counter that identifies the stroke sequence number.

16. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

a reference character dictionary including a record having a plurality of reference parameter sets each defining reference attributes of a respective stroke of a reference character, each ~~respective~~ of the plurality of reference parameter ~~set~~ sets having an associated reference sequence number;

a memory that contains a set of instructions; and

a processing unit, responsive to ~~execution of~~ executing the set of instructions, for receiving a stroke parameter set describing handwritten attributes of a handwritten stroke and for determining a stroke sequence number in which the handwritten stroke was input, responsive to determining the stroke sequence number, comparing the stroke parameter set with [[a]] at least one of the plurality of reference parameter ~~set having a~~ sets wherein the associated reference sequence number of at least one of the plurality of reference parameter sets is equal to the stroke sequence number, the ~~comparison~~ comparing step excluding [[a]] at least one of the plurality of reference parameter ~~set having a~~ sets wherein the associated reference sequence number is not equal to the stroke sequence number.

17. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the plurality of reference parameter sets are maintained in fields of a table, the [[first]] set of instructions determining the associated reference sequence ~~numbers~~ number of at least one of the plurality of reference parameter sets by the fields of the table in which the plurality of reference parameter sets are ~~stored~~ maintained.

18. (Currently Amended) The data processing system according to claim 16, wherein the set of instructions are adapted to identify [[a]] at least one of the plurality of reference parameter ~~set having a~~ sets, wherein the reference sequence number of the at least one reference parameter set identified is within a predefined value of the stroke sequence number, and responsive to identifying at least one of the plurality of ~~the~~ reference parameter [[set]] sets, [[and]] compare the stroke parameter set with the ~~identified~~ at least one of the plurality of reference parameter [[set]] sets identified.

19. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the reference character dictionary includes a second record having a data element ~~having a~~ value indicating a number of constituent strokes of a second reference character, the second record further having at least one second reference parameter set, the set of instructions, responsive to determining the data element value is less than the stroke sequence number, excluding the at least one second reference parameter [[sets]] set of the second record from the comparing step ~~comparison with the stroke parameter set~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The data processing system according to claim 16, wherein the record includes a data element ~~having a~~ value indicating a number of constituent strokes of the reference character, the set of instructions, responsive to reading the data element value, [[for]] determining ~~a number of the~~ at least one of the plurality of reference parameter sets to exclude from the comparing step ~~comparison, the number of reference parameter sets excluded~~ dependent on the data element value ~~of the data element~~.